

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 16054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: PLCC CALLS FOR FOUNDING CONVENTION DECEMBER 14, 1975

REF: MANILA 15272

1. DURING COURSE SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS NOVEMBER 12 AND 13, PLCC (PHILIPPINE LABOR COORDINATING CENTER) SET DECEMBER 14 AS DATE FOR FOUNDING CONVENTION. ORIGINALLY PROPOSED DATE, DECEMBER 6-7, MOVED BACK ONE WEEK DUE CONFLICT WITH VISIT PRESIDENT FORD TO PHILIPPINES. LABOR SECRETARY OPLE TOLD LABATT THAT PLCC LEADERS OCA AND MENDOZA, AFTER CONSULTING WITH HIM, HAD AGREED IT WOULD BE WISER CHANGE DATE.

2. PLCC BOARD MEETINGS ALSO GAVE FINAL APPROVAL DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR UNIFIED NTUC (NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER). ALTHOUGH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OCA AND MENDOZA REGARDING POWER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT (OC) AND OFFICE OF SECRETARY GENERAL (MENDOZA) HAD SUPPOSEDLY BEEN HAMMERED OUT IN SEPTEMBER (MANILA 12939), MENDOZA HAD APPARENTLY BEEN HAVING SOME SECOND THOUGHTS. AS CONSEQUENCE NOVEMBER 13 PLCC BOARD MEETING, HOWEVER, MENDOZA HAS NOW APPARENTLY AGREED THAT PRESIDENCY SHOULD HAVE A FEW EXCLUSIVE POWERS.

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3. ONE SOUR NOTE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOUNDED. ON NOVEMBER 12, FFW (FEDERATION OF FREE WORKERS) ACTING PRESIDENT RAMON

JABAR FORMALLY NOTIFIED PLCC THAT FFW WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN FOUNDING CONVENTION. BURDEN OF FFW ARGUMENT WAS THAT LABOR MOVEMENT BEING RAILROADED INTO UNIFICATION BY UN-DEMOCRATIC AND ARBITRARY PROCEDURES. FULL TEXT OF FFW POSITION PAPER ON UNIFICATION LABOR MOVEMENT BEING AIRPOUCHED.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE PLANNED PLCC SCENARIO FOR UNIFYING LABOR MOVEMENT, FOUNDING CONVENTION CAN PROVIDE UNIFICATION IN NAME ONLY. ADDITIONAL SERIOUS RESTRUCTURING MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID SOME OLD PERSONAL INTERESTS, POLITICAL AMBITIONS, INTREGUES AND CORRUPTION FROM CROPPING UP AGAIN. WITHDRAWAL OF SMALL BUT PRESTIGIOUS FFW FROM UNIFICATION DRIVE WAS BITTER THOUGH EXPECTED EVENT. JOHNNY TAN (CURRENTLY IN GENEVA) HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN HIS BELIEF PROPOSED NTUC WILL BE LARGELY ORGANIZED TO BENEFIT MENDOZA ANDOCA, AND THEIR HANGERS-ON. NTUC WILL HAVE ITS WORK CUT OUT PROVING TAN WRONG.
SULLIVAN

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